

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member ~~that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device,~~; a plate ~~that can be pivoted relatively pivotally attached to said holding member,~~ and which exhibits said plate including a bite piece[[7]] on which the patient bites[[7]]; ~~and means for detecting the an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between said plate and said holding member,~~ ~~as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane,~~ ~~which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,~~  
including ~~means for indicating the angular position of the pivoted plate, and~~  
including ~~driving means for vertical adjustment of~~ vertically adjusting said holding member and ~~pivoting~~ said plate.

2. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein said means for detecting the angle of deflection  $\alpha$  comprise one or more ~~sensors disposed in said holding member.~~

3.-4. (Canceled)

5.-6. (Cancel)

7. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

~~a holding member that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device,~~ a plate that can be pivoted relatively which is pivotally attached to said holding member, ~~and which exhibits said plate including a bite piece~~ [[7]] on which the patient bites [[7]]; and means for detecting the an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between said plate and said holding member, ~~as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,~~ said detecting means including

~~wherein said pivoted plate is connected to a rail which is~~ connected to said plate and disposed in said holding member, ~~is capable of being moved and movable~~ upwardly and downwardly, ~~and has said rail including an opening, for the purpose of detecting the position of said rail by and detector means~~ for detecting the opening and thus the position of the rail and the angle of deflection.

8. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 7, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece ~~is of~~ comprises a soft material.

11. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece ~~is~~ consists of a substantially radiolucent material.

12. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece ~~is made~~ consists of closed-cell ethylene foam.

13. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece occupies an angle  $\beta$  of the dental arch of the patient which ranges from 20° to 40°.

14. (Currently Amended) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece has, on ~~its~~ an upper surface and on ~~its~~ an undersurface respectively, a bite groove for the accommodation of ~~the~~ a dental arch of ~~the~~ upper and lower jaws of the patient.

15. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 16, wherein said bite piece is a unitary piece and is foldable along a folding edge.

16. (Currently Amended) A bite device for correct positioning of a patient for taking a radiograph with a panoramic X-ray device, comprising

a holding member ~~that can be located in a directionally stable position relative to said X-ray device,~~; a plate ~~that can be pivoted relatively pivotally attached to said holding member,~~ said plate including and which exhibits a bite piece[[7]] on which the patient bites, said bite piece including a wedge-shape tapered projection and a complementary

recess on opposite sides thereof for releasably fitting said bite piece to said plate; and means for detecting the an angle of deflection  $\alpha$  between said plate and said holding member, ~~as is correlated with the degree of inclination of the occlusal plane, which means are disposed in a region of the occlusal system which is free from X-ray irradiation when the radiograph is taken,~~

~~— wherein said bite piece has, on opposite sides thereof, a wedge-shaped tapered projection and a complementary recess for the accommodation of said projection for releasably fitting said bite piece to said pivoted plate, and~~

~~— wherein said bite piece is replaceable.~~

17. (Previously Presented) A bite device as defined in claim 1, wherein said bite piece includes a replaceable protective sheath.